

December 18, 2023

God's Gift

Psalm 126

³ *“The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.”*

⁵ *“Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.”*

Today marks one week until Christmas Day! Because “the Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy,” we can **Proclaim Peace, Bring Good News**, and offer hope to our neighbors because we live immersed in the love and forgiveness that Jesus Christ offers to our world.

Psalm 126 reminds us that times of trouble and sorrow do not last. God brings joy out of sorrow, laughter out of tears, and good out of evil. In life we can expect both joy and weeping.

Our joy assures us of hope even when we weep. We rejoice in God for his past faithfulness, and hope for more rejoicing, especially as we celebrate Advent. The Season of Advent is dedicated to remembering the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. As we devote time to reflection, we acknowledge that our lives will be affected by all the emotions that we as humans feel.

Yesterday, we lit the Advent candle of Hope. Hope brought about because of Christ's birth into a broken world and into our mortal lives.

Psalm 126 proclaims, “Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.” Some circumstances can be overwhelming, and hope seems impossible to find. Our faith assures us that we can hold on to hope even when all seems lost.

During Advent, we're reminded that Jesus Christ can bring hope to all our lives so that “we are filled with joy.” Even when our circumstance brings us tears, we can have hope that we “will reap with songs of joy.” Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
YES, THE LORD IS STILL DOING GREAT THINGS FOR US!!

***Prayer:** Gracious and loving God, we praise you for your gift of Hope. Energize us in this Advent Season so that we are able to offer hope to those who do not know you. We pray for all who need to find hope as they struggle to face life without your Holy Presence. Amen*

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